

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An electronic mail distributing apparatus, comprising:
  - a receiving unit which receives an electronic mail scheduled to be sent to a recipient at a specified date and time;
  - a mail storing unit which stores the electronic mail received by said receiving unit;
  - a detection unit which detects an electronic mail whose specified date and time becomes the present date and time;
  - a retrieval unit which retrieves the electronic mail detected by said detection unit, from said mail storing unit; and
  - a transmitting unit which sends the electronic mail retrieved by said retrieval unit.
2. An electronic mail distributing apparatus as recited in Claim 1, further comprising a confirmation unit which confirms that the specified date and time to be sent out is set to one after the present data and time, and which then stores the electronic mail in said mail storing unit.
3. An electronic mail distributing apparatus as recited in Claim 1, further comprising a generating unit which generates header information of the electronic mail retrieved by said retrieval unit.

4. An electronic mail distributing apparatus as recited in Claim 2, wherein said detection unit detects an electronic mail whose specified date and time is set to one slightly before the exact specified date and time.

5. An electronic mail distributing apparatus as recited in Claim 1, wherein a data structure of said mail storing unit includes a specified date and time column, a destined country column, a recipient address column, a sender address column and a message body column.

6. An electronic mail distributing apparatus as recited in Claim 2, further comprising a receiving unit which receives the electronic mail and reads out the specified date and time and which supplies it to said confirmation unit, wherein the specified date and time are entered in a body of an electronic mail message using a tag indicative thereof and said receiving unit reads the specified date and time based on the tag, and wherein the tag is deleted when the electronic mail is sent to the recipient.

7. A method of distributing electronic mail, comprising:  
receiving an electronic mail scheduled to be sent to a recipient at a specified date and time;  
storing the electronic mail received;  
detecting an electronic mail stored whose specified date and time becomes the present date and time;

retrieving the electronic mail as a result of said detecting, from the stored electronic mails; and

transmitting the electronic mail as a result of said retrieving.

8. A method of distributing electronic mail, comprising:
  - receiving an electronic mail sent from an originating client;
  - judging whether or not date and time specified by the originating client are effective, and notifying the originating client if the specified date and time has already passed the present date and time so as to prevent wrong registration of the electronic mail;
  - storing the electronic mail when the specified date and time indicates future date and time; and
  - sending the stored electronic mail on the specified date and time to a recipient.

9. An electronic mail distributing apparatus as recited in Claim 2, further comprising a generating unit which generates header information of the electronic mail retrieved by said retrieval unit.

10. An electronic mail distributing apparatus as recited in Claim 1, wherein the apparatus is implemented in a mail server.

11. An electronic mail distributing apparatus as recited in Claim 2, wherein the apparatus is implemented in a mail server.

**12. An electronic mail distributing apparatus as recited in Claim 3,  
wherein the apparatus is implemented in a mail server.**